

KARTEN ALS KLIMAZEUGEN

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mit 19 Abb. im Text

INHALT

<i>Abstract</i>	237
<i>Zusammenfassung</i>	238
Widmung	238
1 Einleitung	238
2 Klimavariabilität.....	239
3 PTOLEMÄUS-Handschriften	240
4 Nordwestpassage	244
5 Jahreszeitenbilder.....	250
6 Augenschein- und Regionalkarten.....	251
7 Klimawandel und Landschaftsgemälde	255
8 Gletscher in alten Karten und Veduten.....	256
9 Der Gletscherhochstand um 1780 in Karten der Alpen	258
10 Gletscherkartierungen im 19. Jahrhundert	260
11 Schluss.....	262
12 Literaturverzeichnis.....	262

Abstract

Information on climate changes gathered from historical documents

Maps of Latin PTOLEMY-Editions of the 15th century depict sea ice in Northern Europe. Early in the the 17th century the search for a Northwest Oassage failed. The medieval warm period had ended, and only around 1850 – at the end of the “little ice age” – it became passable. The climate change during the early modern times was also documented in „seasons’ paintings“ since the Middle Ages and by manuscript maps from 1500 onwards. The latter nt often show the abandoning of viticulture and the occasionally disastrous advance of Alpine glaciers. The glaciation maximums in the 17th century and at the end of the 18th century are recorded in maps and vedutes. As from 1565 Pieter BRUEGHEL painted winter scenes, and during all of the 17th century Dutch artists creatde sceneries with snow and ice. In the middle of the 19th century the first glacier maps were published, thus incidentally recording the most recent glaciation maximum in the Alps. As from 1880 exact maps document a retreat of the Alpine glaciers.